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# Mississippi Notebook

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# JACKSON MISSISSIPPI NOTEBOOK

By TOM ETHRIDGE



## TURNCOAT'S TROPHY?

The Pulitzer Prize for "distinguished editorial writing" has evidently become a gimmick for promoting integration and rewarding Southern turncoats.

This award is made each year under the auspices of New York's Columbia University, fountainhead of race-mixing ideologies and hotbed of extreme "liberalism."

The 1960 editorial award, just made, went to Lenoir Chambers of the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot. He vigorously condemned Virginia's attempt at "massive resistance" to school integration.

The 1959 editorial prize was given to Harry Ashmore of the Arkansas Gazette at Little Rock. He crusaded for integration there.

The 1958 award went to Buford Boone of the Tuscaloosa News. He hotly blasted those who kept Autherine Lucy from integrating the University of Alabama.

## OBVIOUS PATTERN

The pattern of Pulitzer strategy seems obvious. Whenever a racial crisis develops in a key area of Dixie, the editor who chooses to indulge in local bed-wetting is marked for P. P. honors and lionized nationally by Columbia University's kingmakers.

Since Mississippi is a key area, any journalistic quisling hereabouts can put himself in line for the next Pulitzer editorial-writing prize, by singing the surrender song so dear to Columbia University's board of judges.

Or so it would appear, judging from the board's choices since "Black Monday."

## "POWER TO INFLUENCE"

This particular Pulitzer Prize is offered each year (quote), "for distinguished editorial writing, the test being clearness of style, moral purpose, sound reasoning and power to influence public opinion." (Unquote.)

The official rules do not limit this award to editorials on race matters alone. Thus, it is remarkable that Pulitzer judges in recent years evidently consider integration as the only moral issue of our times, the only area in which "power to influence public opinion" merits recognition.

Certainly there is no end to great moral issues confronting our nation, and no end to areas in which American newspapers can and do editorialize constructively.

## FOR MIXERS ONLY?

America is locked in cold war with Communism. There is much corruption and incompetence in public office. Crime and juvenile delinquency plague us.

This is an age of payola, an era of evading duties and violating trusts, a time when journalism faces its greatest responsibility in history.

And American newspapers are publishing many brilliant editorials, seeking to nudge public opinion in right directions, in many phases.

Yet Pulitzer judges apparently think only in terms of race-mixing when they gather each year to decide who wins the coveted award for "distinguished editorial writing."

## LONE SOUTHERNER

Pulitzer Prizes offered in journalism and various other fields were endowed by Joseph Pulitzer (1847-1911), publisher of the old New York World, in a special bequest to Columbia University.

Prizes are awarded annually by University trustees, on recommendations of "the Advisory Board on Pulitzer Prizes," for work done during the preceding year.

There is reason to suspect this "Advisory Board" is carefully hand-picked to insure favoritism to "liberal" journalists.

Only Southerner on the 14-member board (as listed in the 1959 World Almanac) is Hodding Carter of Greenville, Mississippi, who is something of a fair-haired boy with Columbia bigwigs.

Editor Carter won the Pulitzer award for "distinguished editorial writing" in 1946—by preaching tolerance and condemning racial discrimination. Since then, he has served a number of years on Columbia University's "Advisory Board."

## BROAD CAMPAIGN

The apparent use of Pulitzer awards to favor surrender-minded Southern editors is only one phase of Columbia's broad campaign for sweeping changes—a campaign aided by New York City's propaganda outlets in press, radio, television, literature and entertainment media.

Columbia University is an increasingly strong factor in American life. It is credited with helping to revolutionize national thinking in matters of race, morality, government, journalism, education and international relations — all toward the ultra "liberal," one world point of view.